

RESPONSE

Examiner: FISCHER, Andrew J.

Serial No. 09/769,294

Atty. Docket No.: 53881.010100

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A real-time inventory status and information system comprising:
a database, wherein the database stores at least on-hand, reserved, and ordered inventory information associated with a plurality of inventory items;
a communication interface, wherein the communication interface provides access to the database, the interface communicating between a server and the database;
at least one client, for providing a user interface to the system, wherein the at least one client can communicate with the server via wireless communications and the at least one client can the display inventory information associated with an inventory item selected from the plurality of inventory items; and,
a server, wherein the server provides real-time access to at least a subset of the inventory information associated with the selected inventory item stored in the database by pushing the inventory information to the at least one client when the at least a subset of the inventory information associated with the particular inventory item changes in the database. ; and,
2. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, in which said server is comprised of a web server.
3. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, in which said client is comprised of a web browser.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, wherein the client is comprised of a combination of a web browser and custom

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software which permits real-time inventory display.

6. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

wherein the client is comprised of a combination of a web browser and custom

software which permits real-time inventory monitoring.

7. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

wherein the client is comprised of a combination of a web browser and custom

software which permits real-time inventory control.

8. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

wherein the client is comprised of a combination of a web browser and custom

software for real-time inventory display, monitoring, and control.

9. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

wherein ~~in which~~ said client includes a device capable of reading container labels.

10. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

~~in which~~ wherein said client includes a barcode scanner.

11. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,

wherein the client periodically requests inventory updates from the server.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of real-time inventory item status and information

dissemination, comprising the steps of:

recording in an inventory database a quantity on-hand for a plurality of inventory items;

recording in the inventory database at least one inventory item ~~order orders~~ and the

corresponding order properties, including quantities ordered, date ordered,

anticipated delivery time, and anticipated delivery date, wherein the at least one

inventory item order represents an order placed with a supplier ~~in an inventory~~

database;

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recording in the inventory database any inventory items received from a supplier or returned by a customer inventory items and by at least incrementing corresponding on-hand inventory item quantities in the inventory database;

receiving at least one purchase request requests for at least one inventory item and placing a corresponding quantity of inventory items on reserve by incrementing the on reserve inventory item quantity corresponding to each inventory item in the at least one purchase request;

receiving from a client at least one request for information about a selected inventory item;

calculating inventory item quantity quantities available for delivery for the selected inventory item as a difference between the inventory item quantity on-hand and the inventory item quantity on reserve for the selected inventory item; based on quantities reflected in the inventory database;

displaying on the client the inventory item quantity available for delivery for the selected inventory item;

pushing at least one an updated inventory item quantity available for delivery for the selected inventory item to a the client in real time when as an inventory item quantity changes; , as reflected in the inventory database

displaying on the client the updated inventory item quantity; and,

decrementing both reserve and on hand inventory item totals in the inventory database upon shipment of an inventory item.

13. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination

method of Claim 12, in which said ~~new~~-inventory item orders are entered through an accounting system.

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14. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 13, wherein said accounting system automatically updates the inventory database.
15. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein electronically readable codes corresponding to inventory items are ~~read by a client as~~ used as a basis for recording inventory items as they are received, returned, or shipped.
16. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 15, in which said electronically readable codes are Universal Product Code (UPC) codes.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The real time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of reading an electronically readable code corresponding to an inventory item as the inventory item is shipped.
19. (Currently Amended) The real time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein the pushing ~~transmitting~~ of updated inventory information to a client occurs via wireless communications.